BRITISH COLUMBIA
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BCStats

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Labour Force Statistics ◆ May 2010

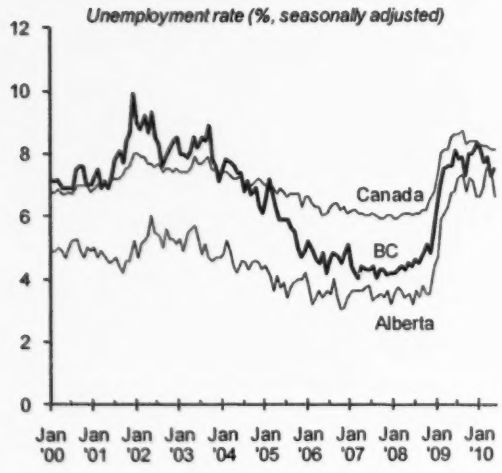
(All labour force statistics are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated)

Jobless rate edges up to 7.5% in May

After falling 0.6 percentage points in April, British Columbia's unemployment rate edged back up 0.2 percentage points in May, rising to 7.5%. The increase in the jobless rate was a result of moderate employment losses (-0.4%).

B.C.'s unemployment rate remains below the national average (8.1%), but is the highest among the western provinces. Despite recent fluctuations, the current jobless rates in both British Columbia (7.5%) and Alberta (6.6%) are about the same as they were at this time last year (7.6% and 6.7%, respectively).

Jobless rates in B.C. and Alberta are about the same as they were one year ago



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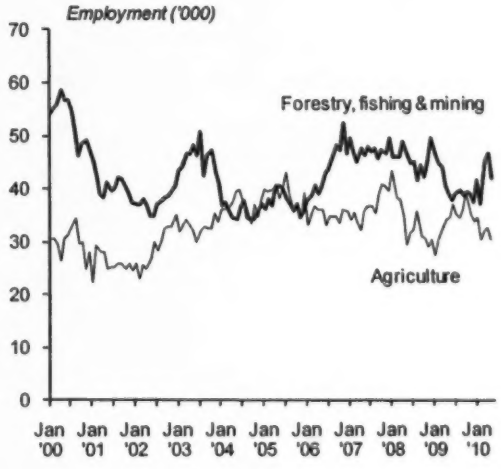
Fewer jobs in primary industries

Reversing some of April's gains, employment was down in both the goods sector (-1.3%) and service sector (-0.2%).

In the goods-producing sector, employment in construction (+0.5%), manufacturing (+0.4%) and utilities (-0.6%) remained virtually unchanged. There were, however, job losses in forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas (-10.1%) and agriculture (-7.7%). Employment in these primary industries has been quite volatile in recent months.

Primary industries post job losses in May



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In the services-producing sector, job gains in professional, scientific and technical services (+8.3%) were largely offset by modest declines in information, culture and recreation (-5.0%), accommodation and food services (-3.7%), and other services (-6.0%). With the exception of transportation and warehousing (+2.2%), the remaining service sector industries saw little change in employment in May.

Students looking for summer work

Early indicators suggest that 2010 is going to be a difficult year for students looking for summer

work. In May 2010, the unemployment rate (*unadjusted*) among students aged 20 to 24 looking for summer work was 14.8%, compared to only 8.7% in May 2009. One of the primary reasons for this difference appears to be a substantial increase in the number of students (aged 20 to 24, *unadjusted*) looking for work this year (+10.4% compared to May 2009).

Off-reserve Aboriginal Population

B.C.'s off-reserve Aboriginal population is underrepresented in management and professional occupations. In 2009, only 6% of employed off-reserve Aboriginals (aged 25 and over) were working in management occupations, and 11% were working in professional occupations. In contrast, 11% of the employed non-Aboriginal population (aged 25 and over) held management positions, and 20% worked in professional occupations.

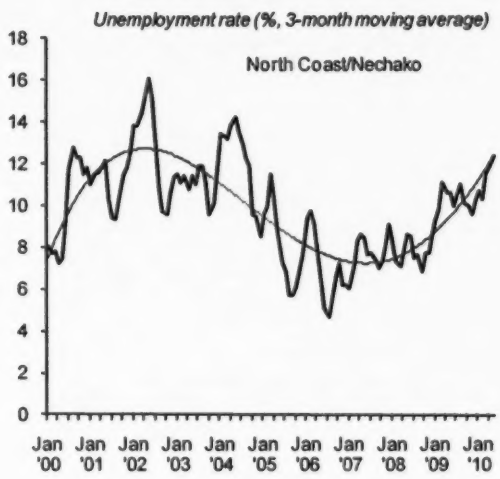
Immigrant Population

B.C.'s immigrant population appears to be only slightly underrepresented in management occupations. In 2009, 10% of employed landed immigrants (aged 25 to 54) who had been in Canada for at least 5 years held management positions. The percentage of employed Canadian-born workers (aged 25 to 54) working in management occupations was only one percentage point higher, at 11%.

The Regions

At the regional level, unemployment rates (*3-month moving average, unadjusted)* were lower than the provincial average (7.7%) in Vancouver Island/Coast (5.8%), Northeast (6.9%), and Cariboo (7.5%). The jobless rate in North Coast/Nechako (12.4%) was significantly higher than in any other region. Despite a shrinking labour force (-4.0% compared to the same time last year), continued job losses have put upward pressure on the unemployment rate in this region, which is up 1.8 percentage points from 10.6% at this time last year.

The jobless rate in North Coast/Nechako remains in the double digits



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The Nation

Nationally, modest employment gains (+0.1%) were offset by growth in the labour force (+0.2%), leaving Canada's unemployment rate unchanged in May (8.1%). Although most of the country's job gains occurred in Ontario (+0.3%) and Alberta (+0.7%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+3.5%) and Nova Scotia (+0.8%) showed the strongest overall employment growth.

Selected Statistics	May-10	Apr-10	May-09
BC Unemployment Rate (%)	7.5	7.3	7.6
Canadian Unemployment Rate (%)	8.1	8.1	8.5
BC Employment ('000)	2,293	2,303	2,256
BC Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	65.8	66.0	66.1
May % change in employment relative to:	-	-0.4	1.6
May % change in labour force relative to:	-	-0.2	1.5